

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 OMB-01 /070 W
----- 109388

R 030940Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3141
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T ALGIERS 3034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ME, AG, EB, IS, SY

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN VIEW OF SINAI ACCORD

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SEC GEN FONMIN BENHABYLES OCTOBER 2, I RAISED QUESTION OF ALGERIAN CRITICISMS OF STATIONING OF US CIVILIANS IN SINAI (ALGIERS 2097). HE LISTENED POLITELY TO MY EXPLANATION ALONG LINES OF PRESENTATION MADE EARLIER TO PRES BOUMEDIENE BUT MADE NO COMMENT. HE SIMPLY OBSERVED THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY "CURIOUS" THAT ISRAEL HAD ONLY INITIALED ACCORD OVER THIS POINT WHILE EGYPT HAD SIGNED ACCORD.

2. HE SAID ALGERIA RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS "LESS ENGAGED" THAN OTHER PARTIES. FOR ALGERIANS, THEN, KEY ISSUES IN DEBATE OVER ACCORD WERE QUESTIONS OF STABILITY AND OF RESPECT FOR "RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGN PEOPLE." ALGERIANS, HE SAID, EXAMINED ACCORD FROM POINT OF VIEW AS TO HOW IT CONTRIBUTED TO THESE ISSUES. ALGERIA RECOGNIZED THAT IF ACCORD SUCCEEDS, IT WILL PROMOTE STABILITY AND ALLOW CONTINUATION OF PROGRESS TOWARD RECOGNITION OF PEOPLES' RIGHTS; IF IT DID NOT SUCCEED, HE SAID, THERE WOULD BE CONTINUED TROUBLE IN REGION. THEREFORE, HE SAID, ALGERIANS "WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DESTABILIZE THE SITUATION."

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3. COMMENT. WHILE WE CAN CONTINUE TO EXPECT ALGERIAN
SNIPING OVER ACCORD (ALGIERS 2097, 3012), BENHABYLES'S
COMMENTS SUGGEST ALGERIANS AT LEAST WILLING GIVE AGREEMENT
A CHANCE. SHOULD IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS ARISE OR SHOULD
FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA AND OVER PALESTINIAN
ISSUES STALL, HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT ALGERIANS TO SLIP
LEASH.PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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